

1 **COORDINATION OF SERVICES FOR VETERANS**

2 2013 GENERAL SESSION

3 STATE OF UTAH

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5 **LONG TITLE**

6 **General Description:**

7 This bill creates a veterans' services coordinator position and requires certain  
8 government entities to provide data to the Utah Department of Veterans' Affairs.

9 **Highlighted Provisions:**

10 This bill:

- 11 ▶ creates a veterans' coordinator position and qualifications;
- 12 ▶ requires government entities to designate a veterans' services specialist within each
- 13 entity;
- 14 ▶ requires contractors receiving government entity funds to participate;
- 15 ▶ provides for training of agency veterans' services specialists; and
- 16 ▶ requires an annual report to the Government Operations Interim Committee.

17 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

18 None

19 **Other Special Clauses:**

20 None

21 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

22 AMENDS:

23 **71-8-1**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2007, Chapters 173 and 329

24 **71-8-3**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2007, Chapter 173

25 ENACTS:

26 **71-8-5**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

27 **71-8-6**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

28 **71-9-6**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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30 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

31 Section 1. Section **71-8-1** is amended to read:

32 **71-8-1. Definitions.**

33 As used in this chapter:

34 (1) "Contractor" means a person who is or may be awarded a government entity  
 35 contract.

36 [~~(1)~~] (2) "Council" means the Veterans' Advisory Council.

37 [~~(2)~~] (3) "Department" means the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

38 [~~(3)~~] (4) "Executive director" means the executive director of the Department of  
 39 Veterans' Affairs.

40 [~~(4)~~] (5) "Government entity" means the state and any county, municipality, local  
 41 district, special service district, and any other political subdivision or administrative unit of the  
 42 state, including state institutions of education.

43 (6) "Specialist" means a full-time employee of a government entity who is tasked with  
 44 responding to and assisting veterans who are employed by or come to the entity for assistance.

45 [~~(5)~~] (7) "Veteran" means:

46 (a) an individual who has served on active duty in the armed forces for at least 180  
 47 consecutive days or was a member of a reserve component, and who has been separated or  
 48 retired under honorable conditions; or

49 (b) any individual incurring an actual service-related injury or disability in the line of  
 50 duty whether or not that person completed 180 days of active duty.

51 Section 2. Section **71-8-3** is amended to read:

52 **71-8-3. Duties of executive director -- Services to veterans.**

53 The executive director shall:

54 (1) be responsible for the administration and the operation or support of the following  
 55 veteran-related operations:

56 (a) Utah State Veterans' Nursing Homes and Programs;

57 (b) Utah State Veterans' Cemetery and Memorial Park;

58 (c) Title 71, Chapter 10, Veteran's Preference;

59 (d) any locally or federally funded programs for homeless veterans within the state; and

60 (e) any federally funded education services for veterans within the state;

61 (2) maintain liaison with local, state, and federal veterans' agencies and with Utah  
 62 veterans' organizations;

63 (3) provide current information so that veterans, their surviving spouses and family

64 members, and Utah veterans' organizations will be aware of benefits to which they are, or may  
65 become, entitled;

66 (4) reach out and assist veterans and their families in applying for benefits and  
67 services;

68 (5) develop and maintain a system for determining how many veterans are employed  
69 by the various government entities within the state and keeping track of them; ~~and]~~

70 (6) cooperate with other state entities in the receipt of information to create and  
71 maintain a record of veterans in Utah~~[-]; and~~

72 (7) report annually to the Government Operations Interim Committee on the:

73 (a) services provided to veterans; and

74 (b) coordination of veterans' services by government entities with the department  
75 including the preparation of an annual report.

76 Section 3. Section **71-8-5** is enacted to read:

77 **71-8-5. Veterans' services coordinator qualifications -- Duties.**

78 (1) The veterans' services coordinator shall:

79 (a) be a veteran;

80 (b) have the education and experience in the use of computer technology including  
81 databases to collect, manage, and store information; and

82 (c) have some education and experience in public relations.

83 (2) The veterans' services coordinator shall be responsible to:

84 (a) identify all government entities that provide services for veterans;

85 (b) develop a process for coordination of veterans' services across all government  
86 entities; and

87 (c) develop and provide training for veterans' affairs specialists on the coordination of  
88 veterans' services with the department.

89 Section 4. Section **71-8-6** is enacted to read:

90 **71-8-6. Government entity participation.**

91 (1) Each government entity that provides services to or for veterans shall:

92 (a) assign a full time employee who is a veteran as a veterans' services specialist to  
93 coordinate the provision of veterans' services with the department; and

94 (b) provide the department with non-protected or non-private information about

95 services provided to veterans.

96 (2) Each governmental entity that provides services to veterans shall post on the entity's  
97 website:

98 (a) all services available for veterans from the entity and the contact information for the  
99 veterans' services specialist; and

100 (b) a link to the department with the contact information for the veterans' services  
101 coordinator.

102 (3) Each government entity that does not provide services to veterans shall, upon a  
103 request for services by a veteran, direct the veteran to contact the department and provide the  
104 veteran with the department contact information.

105 Section 5. Section **71-9-6** is enacted to read:

106 **71-9-6. Government entity veterans' affairs specialist -- Duties -- Training.**

107 (1) Each government entity providing veterans with services shall appoint or designate  
108 a full time employee as a veterans' affairs specialist.

109 (2) The veterans' affairs specialist shall:

110 (a) coordinate the provision of veterans' services by the government entity with the  
111 department; and

112 (3) attend annual training by the department on coordination processes including  
113 providing non-protected or non-private information to the department.